GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES .
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is being given to the poor for treatment, surgery and other medical needs by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, ;

(c) the criteria for giving the financial assistance;

(d) the number of applications sanctioned and the amount disbursed year-wise during the last five years;

(e) whether the number of sanctioned applications has come down substantially ;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(g) the details of such applications sanctioned from Kerala and the amount sanctioned year-wise for the last five years; and

(h) the reasons for reduction of sanctioned amount?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b & c) The details and the criteria of such schemes are at Annexure `A` and Annexure `B`.

(d) The information is given at Annexure `C`.

(e) & (f) There is a substantial increase in the number of applications for financial assistance sanctioned to patients living below poverty line under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi. However, there has been decline in the number of applications sanctioned under Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant due to the reasons detailed in Annexure `D`.

(g) The details are given at Annexure `E`.

(h) The amount sanctioned in individual cases may be inter alia reduced -

(i) to the extent of final expenditure (which the patient is yet to incur) intimated by the treating Govt. hospital in response to the commitment letter.

(ii) by the amount of assistance obtained from other sources such as Prime Minister`s Relief Fund and any other Government/Private Charitable Institution particularly in cases considered under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

ANNEXURE-A

Annexure in reply to part (b & c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3114 for 23.3.2005

Details and criteria for Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant

Under this scheme financial assistance is granted to the poor and needy patients to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases. The diseases for which grants are sanctioned include Heart ailments, Kidney transplant, Hip & Knee replacement, Cancer, AIDS, Hepatitis, Tumour etc. The details and criteria for sanctioning the financial assistance under the scheme is:

(i) The applicant is expected to apply in the prescribed proforma for the purpose.

(ii) Government servants (Central as well as State Government Employees) are not eligible to receive financial assistance out of the Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant.

(iii) The amount of the grant in any one case does not ordinarily exceed Rs. 20,000/-. The grant is sanctioned as `one time` grant and is released to the Medical Supdt. of the hospital where patient is taking treatment.

(iv) All grants are of non-recurring nature and no recurring liability is undertaken.

(v) Re-imbursement of expenditure already incurred is not admissible.

(vi) The sanction of grant is restricted to patients taking treatment in Govt. hospitals. No assistance is provided for treatment in private hospital.

(vii) Financial assistance is not admissible for diseases of common nature where treatment is not expensive. Also a disease like T.B. is not eligible for assistance for which free treatment is available under National T.B. Control Programme.

(viii) For the purpose of sanctioning of financial assistance, an annual family income of upto Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only is taken as the upper limit for being eligible for assistance.

(ix) After getting approval of Minister of Health & Family Welfare, a commitment letter is issued to the concerned hospital intimating sanction of financial assistance. On receipt of a reply from the hospital about admittance/date of operation of the patient, the amount of financial assistance is released to the hospital.

ANNEXURE-B

Annexure in reply to part (b & c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3114 for 23.3.2005.

Details and criteria for assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to poor patients, living below poverty line, suffering from major life-threatening diseases receiving medical treatment at any Govt. Hospital. The details and criteria for sanctioning the financial assistance under the scheme is:

(i) The applicant is required to apply in the proforma prescribed for the purpose alongwith income certificate issued by a competent revenue authority and an attested copy of ration card.

(ii) A Technical Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi examines the medical reports and recommends quantum of financial assistance required and finally the Managing Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi approves the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

(iii) An illustrative list of diseases for which assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi can be given, is as under:-

1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aheretomy, Heart surgery for Congenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation, etc.

2. Cancer

Radiation treatment of all kinds. Anti-Cancer Chemotherapy

3. Urology/Nephrology

Dialysis alongwith consumable goods (coils and dialysis solution etc.). Vascular shunts for Dialysis, P.C.N. & P.C.N.L. Kits, Lithotripsy (for stones)-disposable and stents for endoscopic surgical procedure in Urology and Gastroenterology, Renal & Hepatie transplantation.

4. Orthopaedics

Artificial prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixaters, AO implants used in the treatment of bone

disease and fractures.

5. Miscellaneous

Intra-ocular lens implants, Vitro-retinal surgery including Silicon Oil and Perfluro carbon liquid, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

6. Investigations

Ultra-sound, Doppler shidres, Radiooneulcolide scans, CT scan, Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.I., E.E.G., EM.G., Urodynamic studies.

7. Drugs

Immuno-supressive durg, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophilie globulin, Erythropoiten, Blood & Blood products/Plasma for patients of burn, Drugs for Glaucoma like Latanoprost & Brimonodine.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

(iv) The financial assistance is released in the form of `one -time grant` to the Medical Supdt. of the Hospital.

(v) After getting approval of Managing Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, a commitment letter is issued to the concerned hospital intimating sanction of financial assistance. On receipt of a reply from the hospital about admittance/date of operation of the patient, the amount of financial assistance is released to the hospital.

ANNEXURE `C`

Annexure in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3114 for 23.3.2005.

Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant

Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount Disbursed (Rupees in lakhs)
2000-2001	406	65.39
2001-2002	631	105.00
2002-2003	595	102.93
2003-2004	303	52.93
2004-till date	207	39.64

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount Disbursed (Rupees in lakhs)
2000-2001	12	25.50
2001-2002	81	144.98
2002-2003	27	39.05
2003-2004	73	78.54
2004-till date	163	164.27

Annexure-D

Applications rejected in the past on account of the following reasons-

(i) Non-receipt of applications complete in all respects.

(ii) Annual family income more than Rs. 50,000/-.

(iii) Request for assistance for re-imbursement of expenditure already incurred.

(iv) Assistance for treatment of TB or diseases of common nature.

(v) Treatment in private hospital.

(vi) The patient is a Central Govt./State Govt./PSU employee.

ANNEXURE-E

Annexure in reply to part (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3114 for 23.3.2005.

Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant

Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-2000	5	00.90
2000-2001	7	00.78
2001-2002	4	00.80
2002-2003	32	05.94
2003-2004	1	00.20

Rashtriya Arogya

No case from the state of Kerala has been sanctioned under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.